

Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP)

Quick Guide to the FedRAMP Readiness Process

August 2014





What is the readiness process?

- The FedRAMP readiness process is used to determine a CSP's eligibility for the Joint Authorization Board (JAB) Process Provisional Authorization process.
- To be eligible the CSP must:
 - Have an understanding of the FISMA and FedRAMP requirements and process
 - Be able to commit the resources needed to complete a FedRAMP assessment
 - Have the ability to implement the FedRAMP control baseline
 - Meet FedRAMP requirements for level of detail in documenting the control implementation



Readiness Process Roles

- CSP
 - Provide information about the cloud system, documentation and make updates in response to comments from FedRAMP
 - Learn about the FedRAMP process
- FedRAMP Readiness and Development Team
 - Review incoming applications and initiates contact with CSPs
 - Coordinate the readiness process
 - Perform a completeness check and reviews the CSP's initial documentation
 - Provide comments and feedback on documentation to the CSP
 - Recommend to Director or Project Manager of whether to kick-off the full FedRAMP assessment
- FedRAMP Director / FedRAMP Manager
 - Make final decision of whether the CSP starts the full FedRAMP assessment



Readiness Process Overview

- The process is composed of three steps:





CSP Interview Process

Schedule CSP Interview

After receiving the CSP's FedRAMP application, the FedRAMP Readiness and Development Team schedules an initial interview to:

- Answer questions and provide information about the FedRAMP JAB P-ATO process
- Learn about the system that the CSP is offering
- Gauge the CSP's current knowledge of FedRAMP
- Determine the resources that the CSP is able to dedicate to a FedRAMP assessment

Send Invite to Documentation Training

The FedRAMP Readiness and Development Team offers training on completing FedRAMP documentation. An invite is sent to the CSP for the (optional) training following the interview.

This training allows CSPs to receive an overview of the required FedRAMP templates and training on the level of detail required by the FedRAMP process.

Interview Feedback

The FedRAMP Readiness and Development Team provides feedback to the CSP based on the CSP interview.

If the Readiness and Development Team determines that the CSP has taken the steps needed to start the FedRAMP process, the team request an initial copy of the CSP's documentation.

If the Readiness and Development Team determines that the CSP is not ready at this point, a team representative provides feedback on what the CSP needs to do to get ready for the process.



Initial SSP Review

Request Initial Documents

If the CSP is ready to move forward, the FedRAMP Readiness and Development Team requests a current copy of the CSP's:

- System Security Plan (SSP)
- Configuration Management Plan
- Contingency Plan
- Incident Response Plan
- CSP's Security Policies and Procedures as required by the SSP

The Readiness and Development Team sets up a CSP account in the OMB MAX secure repository and provides upload instructions for submitting the documents for review.



Initial Documents Review

The FedRAMP Readiness and Development Team performs a completeness check on the initial documents and ensures that the right level of detail is present.

If the documents meet the FedRAMP requirements, the team holds a briefing with the FedRAMP ISSOs, and provide the documents for a detailed review.

If the Readiness and Development Team determines that the CSP's documentation is not ready at this point, a team representative will provide feedback on what the CSP needs to update in the documents.

ISSO Review and Briefing

The FedRAMP ISSOs performs an in-depth review of the initial documents and brief the FedRAMP Director and Manager on the status of the CSP's documentation.



Kick-Off Decision

Kick-Off Decision

At the conclusion of the ISSO briefing with the FedRAMP Director and Manager, the team either recommends moving forward to formally kicking off the full FedRAMP P-ATO assessment or requiring the CSP to make additional revisions before moving forward.

If the team determines that the CSP's documentation is not ready at this point, a Readiness and Development Team representative provides additional feedback on what the CSP will need to update in the documents.

Setting Up the Kick-Off Meeting

If the FedRAMP Manager and Director accept the recommendation to move forward with the Kick-Off, the Readiness and Development Team schedules the kick-off meeting with the CSP.

The Readiness and Development Team provides a briefing template to the CSP in preparation for the Kick-Off Meeting.

Hold Kick-Off Meeting

At the Kick-Off Meeting the CSP briefs its system using the template provided by the Readiness and Development Team.

The assigned ISSO provides the CSP with detailed comments on the first 12 sections of the SSP.